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PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Ecker, Griffey, Sampath, Hofstadler, McNeil, Crooke,

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Title: METHODS FOR PROVIDING BACTERIAL BIOAGENT  
CHARACTERIZING INFORMATION

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Pamela Grooms

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Commissioner for Patents  
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Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

## AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED 09/13/2006

In response to the Office Action mailed September 13, 2006, please accept the following:

- ☒ Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of the claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.
- ☒ Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.